DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

IN REPLY REFER TO

BUMEDINST 6410.8
BUMED-3C12
13 November 1981

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6410.8

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: Safety standdown for aviation physiology training activities

Encl: (1) Guidelines for safety standdown for aviation physiology training activities

1. Purpose. To affirm the requirement for a safety standdown for aviation physiology training activities.

2. Cancellation. BUMEDINST 5100.10.

3. Background. Major aviation physiology training devices, such as high altitude rapid decompression chambers, emergency egress trainers, disorientation trainers, and various water survival training devices, represent a potential threat to the physical well-being of the aircrew trainees and the instructors/observers. This fact necessitates that instructor personnel assigned to aviation physiology training activities be constantly alert, recognizing symptoms of stress and incapacitation of trainees, and that they be prepared to respond to such situations to supply emergency treatment. The alertness and sense of responsibility on the part of the instructor personnel are insurance against possible fatalities or major injury to trainees. The safety standdown has been developed to assure the readiness of instructor personnel in all emergency situations.

4. Policy. A Safety Standdown Program shall be maintained for all aviation physiology training activities. At aviation physiology training activities that conduct water survival training, the safety standdown shall include all components of that program, including the training devices.

5. Objectives. The safety standdown will have as its primary objective the safe operation of all aviation physiology training activities. It will be designed to:

a. Review standard operating procedures for assigned training devices.

b. Instill a safety consciousness in all personnel assigned to such activities.

c. Review medical hazards and treatments of reactions/emergencies in or on all the assigned training devices.

d. Review aeromedical topics that may be timely in all areas of aviation safety.

6. Responsibilities. Each commanding officer of an activity conducting aviation physiology and water survival training shall hold a safety standdown at least semiannually using enclosure (1) as a guideline. A brief written summary of the results of the safety standdown shall be included as part of the Aerospace Physiology Training Report (NAVMED 6410/3) required by MANMED article 14-16.

J. WILLIAM COX

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GUIDELINES FOR

SAFETY STANDDOWN FOR AVIATION PHYSIOLOGY TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Objective

1. To review standard operating procedures for aviation physiology and water survival training devices.

2. To instill a safety consciousness among personnel assigned to aviation physiology training activities.

3. To review medical hazards and treatments of reactions/emergencies occurring in or on any assigned training device.

Personnel Involved

1. All aviation physiology training activity personnel.

2. Flight surgeons and general medical officers.

3. Aviation safety specialists and Medical Department activity safety managers.

4. Aeromedical safety officers.

Suggested Agenda Items

1. Specific

    a. Training device emergencies and reactions.

    b. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques.

    c. Medical management of decompression illness, hypoxia, hyperventilation, and barotrauma.

    d. Handling of compressed gases:

        (1) Gas cylinders.

        (2) Pressure reducers and regulators.

        (3) Oxygen system maintenance.

    e. Syncope:

        (1) Predisposing factors.

        (2) Medical management.

f. Emergency procedures for immediate medical management of ejection seat trainer injuries, spinal injuries, and fractures.

g. Health record screening procedures.

h. Emergency procedures for water survival training injuries, drowning, and near-drowning.

2. General

a. Review of department/activity safety regulations:

(1) Buildings and grounds.

(2) Fire prevention/fire fighting.

b. Review of publications relating to safety.

c. Inservice training: cross training between hospital corpsmen (HM), training devicemen (TD), aircrew survival equipmentmen (PR), and civilian specialists.